Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) In a system comprising a first fabric and a plurality of devices coupled to the first fabric by Fibre Channel connections, the devices otherwise being able to communicate through the first fabric, a method for logically organizing the devices comprising:

accessing a definition of a first configuration including at least one zone, each zone including at least one device as a member of the zone; and

responsive to the definition of the first configuration, restricting communications between the devices coupled to the first fabric,

~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein:

in the definition of the first configuration, at least one zone is characterized by a type of communication; and

the step of restricting communications includes restricting communications between devices which are member of said zone to said type of communication.

5.-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) In a system comprising a first fabric and a plurality of devices coupled to the first fabric by Fibre Channel connections, the devices otherwise being able to communicate through the first fabric, a method for logically organizing the devices comprising:

accessing a definition of a first configuration including at least one zone, each zone including at least one device as a member of the zone; and

responsive to the definition of the first configuration, restricting communications between the devices coupled to the first fabric,

~~The method of claim 1~~ wherein the first fabric comprises at least two interconnected fabric elements to which the devices are coupled, and wherein:

the step of accessing the definition of the first configuration includes:

storing the definition of the first configuration in each fabric element, and each fabric element accessing the definition; and

the step of restricting communications between the devices includes, responsive to the definition of the first configuration, each fabric element restricting communications for the devices coupled to said fabric element.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 further including:

responsive to a coupling of an additional fabric element to the first fabric, determining whether any definition for any configuration is stored in said fabric element; and

responsive to no definitions being stored in the additional fabric element, storing the definition of the first configuration in the additional fabric element.

12.-18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable medium containing software for logically organizing a plurality of devices coupled to a first fabric by Fibre Channel connections, the devices otherwise being able to communicate through the first fabric, the software for instructing a processor to perform the steps of:

accessing a definition of a first configuration including at least one zone, each zone including at least one device as a member of the zone; and

~~responsive to the definition of the first configuration, restricting communications between the devices coupled to the first fabric,~~

~~The computer readable medium of claim 18~~ wherein:

in the definition of the first configuration, at least one zone is characterized by a type of communication; and

the step of restricting communication includes restricting communications between devices which are member of said zone to said type of communication.

20.-24. (Cancelled)